



Philadelphia Ski Club

TRACK



Philadelphia Ski Club Founded 1936 | www.philadelphiaskiclub.org | philaskiclub@gmail.com

May 2016

Volume 74 Issue 1



President's Message

Mike Mazza

Hi To All: The 2016 season is coming to an end, and it was one of the best ski seasons. I like to thank all the board members for all their hard work to make the season a great one.

To the trip leaders **Diane, Marion, and Dave** for running the Elk trips. On February trip I'd like to thank: **Diane and Dann Clapp, Charlie Haffey, and Tony Pello** for doing all the cooking for our lunch on the mountain. On the March trip to **Marion** who had designated jobs for people, to pass out bagels and cream cheese, and to the men who cleaned up the trash.

We had a great trip to Big Sky, with a day trip to Yellowstone National Park, a sleigh ride to the cabin for dinner, and some of the best snow that you could ever want to ski on. Thanks **Kat**.

Rosemary: for another great year at Stowe, Vermont and the nice party at the end of the week with pizza. Your hard work with all the trip leaders made the year a great one.

Board members: VP **Greg Blizzard**, Treasurer: **John Flanagan**, Recording Secretary: **Marianne Haverland**, Corresponding Secretary: **Kathleen Blinebury**, Membership: **Dann Clapp**, Ski Council and Social: **Dot James**, Hospitality: **Susan Byer**, Trip Coordinator: **Roe Crowley**, Track and web site: **Steve DiMeglio**. A special thank you to **Greg** for serving as the Vice President for two years. He will be turning his gavel over to **Bruce Crowley** who was elected as Vice President for the 2016-2017 season. All other board members remain the same.

Thanks to **Kat, Roe, Dot, Sue, and John** for making the 80th anniversary party happen and for making it a great party.

TO ALL THE MEMBERS: THANK YOU MIKE





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Tracking Ski Trips of 2016



Stowe, Vermont Trip

Roe Blinebury-Crowley



There's Always Something Exciting Happening in Stowe, VT!

The Philadelphia Ski Club's Sixth Annual Emily Casey Memorial trip found a great group of thirty-two (32) in Stowe, VT. This was the Club's third consecutive year in

the Village of Stowe, which offers something for everyone regardless of whether you are a skier, boarder, snow-shoer, or you just want to join in the winter fun in the lovely Village. As we have on previous Stowe visits, the group met at the Golden Eagle Lodge in the Colonial Café on Sunday evening for a Welcome reception, overview of the week's festivities and camaraderie over a yummy dinner.

The week started off well – sort of – Monday's and Tuesday's weather was perfect, clear and crisp; both Mt. Mansfield and Spruce Peak were in great skiing condition. Everyone had a great two days on the mountain either skiing or riding, snow shoeing, touring Stowe Village or sitting by the fire in the lodge. Unfortunately, our first bit of excitement was **Kat's** fall on Monday, which put her out of skiing commission for the remainder of the week. But she's a good sport and found other winter fun to keep her mind off her sore calf. Monday evening found us at Idletyme Brewing Company for happy hour – good beverages, delicious appetizers, and the company of good friends! Could you ask for more?

Tuesday was another great winter sport activity day and provided an interesting site on the mountain – **Gil Blinebury, Jr.** skiing Lightning Bolt in a Chartreuse & Hot Pink one-piece ski-jumpsuit! Now, that's a confident man! He actually wore the attention-getting outfit as a "reward" to cousin, **Courtney Crowley**, for joining us on the trip; **Courtney** hadn't skied in ten years; but she didn't miss a beat. **Courtney, Gil Jr.** and **Mary Blinebury** had quite a bit of fun on and off the mountain, seeing who could get the least amount of sleep during the week.

Tuesday evening we gathered at Roost at the Top Notch Resort for happy hour. Roost has a beautiful cocktail lounge; wish we had more time to spend there. But the group was off to dinner at Trattoria la Festa for a delicious Italian dinner. And that's where the next bit of excitement took place. Leaving the restaurant, I rolled my foot at the bottom of the steps and broke my ankle, dropping granddaughter, **Riley**, in the process. Spent the rest of the night in the emergency room at the hospital with **Bruce** and **Karen & Steve DiMeglio**. But there was more fun to be had, so no time to feel sorry for ourselves.

The weather on Wednesday and Thursday might not have been great, but the excitement continued. Wednesday night the group met at Doc Ponds for happy hour. We had a great time in the lounge with a lovely fire; that is until the fire department was called when the restaurant filled with smoke from the "roaring inferno"! Thursday was not a very good day to be outdoors as it rained most of the day, but that didn't stop **Dann Clapp, Bob Davies, Marion & Dave Brown** and quite a few others from hitting the mountain one more time.



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As is our tradition, Thursday night the whole crew got together one more time for happy hour. This time, we met at the banquet room over the Golden Eagle Lodge Spa. **Dann Clapp** was kind enough to hand out the week's "Tip of the Hat Awards":

- The A Squad – **Gil Blinebury, Sr., Gil Jr, & Bob Davis;**
- The B Squad – **Greg Blizard, Mike Mazza, Dann, Diane Garvey, Kat "Crash" Blinebury, Roe "Front Dog" Crowley;**
- "Man Camp Trooper" – **Mary Blinebury;**
- New Inductee to Man Camp – **John Reynolds**
- Stowe Ambassador & Skier Par Excellence – **Charlie App** and his lovely wife, **Paulette;**
- Welcome Back to Stowe - **Dave Reinheimer** and **Tom Detweiler;**
- Great to have you with us, **Paul & Erin Kosma;**
- "Back in Action" award – **Helmut & Joan Schilling**
- "Happiest Little Skier in the Club" – **Riley James Klink**, who was accompanied by her mom, **Kait Crowley**, and **Mike Skroski**
- Happy Anniversary to **Marion** and **Dave Brown.**

Happy Hour was followed by pizza, games, music, and fun until one-by-one folks decided it was time to make sure they were packed for the ride home the next morning. There was one more filling and delectable breakfast in the Colonial Café, then another memorable trip by the Philadelphia Ski Club came to a conclusion.

I thoroughly enjoy running PSC ski trips and am grateful to have so many fun-loving and cheerful friends to travel with. Looking forward to making more memories with you next year...

There's never a dull moment in Stowe, VT!!!



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Stowe, Vermont Trip

Wendy Bartel



Snowshoeing in Vermont

The snowshoeing contingent (**Jack, Wendy and Janice**) had another successful year in Stowe. There was some apprehension on the drive up that there would not be enough snow for snowshoeing. But fortunately, through some assistance provided by Umiak, a local outdoor outfitters shop in Stowe, we found a beautiful winter wonderland located in the Sterling Forest that is about 10 minutes north of Stowe. The forest had wonderful cross country and snowshoe trails. It was so quiet there that you could hear a pin drop. There was also just enough snow cover on the Cady Hill Trail behind the Golden Eagle Resort for us to use. We also walked the Snugglers' Notch Pass road that connects Stowe to the Smuggler's resort. It is a 4 mile stretch that is closed in the winter to vehicular traffic. It is quite a climb to get to the top of the pass! We were all huffing and puffing, except for Monty, of course.

We added a new member to the snowshoe team – **Monty** – a yellow lab belonging to me and Jack. He had a fantastic time running up and down the trails. He also enjoyed meeting the members of the ski group – especially Gil and his family.

On Thursday (rain day) Jack and I drove over to Burlington to check out Lake Champlain. There is a bike/walking path that goes out on the lake. It was very beautiful - you could see Lake Placid in the distance - but very windy and cold. Fortunately, the rain stopped when we were on the lake.

Ski Club Attends The Eddie the Eagle Premiere in Philadelphia, PA

Roe Crowley

On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, the membership of Philadelphia Ski Club was invited by Allied Integrated Marketing, the Philadelphia firm representing 20th Century Fox, to attend the Philadelphia pre-screening of the Lionsgate movie, "Eddie the Eagle".

For those of us old enough to remember the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, Michael "Eddie" Edwards was the perfect combination of laughable goof and passionate inspiration. He "flew" down a 70-meter ski jump right into our hearts. In spite of the fact that he won no medals in Calgary or any other ski-jump competition he entered, he is remembered fondly for flapping his "wings", stirring the crowd of spectators, and reminding us that the underdog may not make it to the podium, but his story is worth noting and celebrating.



Eddie was born December 5, 1963 in Gloucestershire, England. At a very young age, he aspired to become an Olympic athlete. When his efforts toward the summer Olympics proved fruitless, Eddie switched gears, learned to ski and focused on ski-jumping. Eddie's



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father wanted his son to follow in his footsteps and become a plasterer. His mother wanted her son to follow his dreams. With Mums financial support (taking funds from her husbands retirement savings) and against Dad's wishes, Eddie headed to Lake Placid, New York to train for the 1988 Olympics. While the movie contained a number of inaccuracies, the overall sentiment of those who viewed was one of sweet optimism. Eddie's is a great story and "Eddie the Eagle" was certainly worth a trip to the theater!

Against all odds, he achieved his life-long goal of becoming an Olympian. When told by a member of the British Olympic Committee that he was too amateurish, he simply responded, "Aren't the Olympics for amateurs?" In Eddie's own words, "I was a true amateur and embodied what the Olympic spirit is all about," he says. "To me, competing was all that mattered. Americans are very much 'Win! Win! Win!' In England, we don't give a fig whether you win. It's great if you do, but we appreciate those who don't. The failures are the people who never get off their bums. Anyone who has a go is a success."

Movie Post-Script:

In response to the Edwards phenomenon, in 1990, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) instituted what became know as the Eddie the Eagle Rule, which require Olympic hopefuls to compete in international events and be placed in the top 30 percent of the top 50 competitors, whichever is fewer. Edwards failed to qualify for the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, and the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Norway. He got a five-year sponsorship from Eagle Airlines, a small British charter company, to fund his attempt to reach the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan but failed to qualify for those as well.

Following his Olympic "career" Eddie returned home to Gloucestershire, England where he went into the family business as a plasterer. Married with two daughters, Eddie has earned his law degree in England and is contemplating sports law, saying, "Who wouldn't want to be represented by a legal-"Eagle!"



Elk Mountain Trips

Marion Brown



For snow making and snow grooming, we give Elk very high marks, especially in this record breaking warm winter with very little real snowfall. We had three days of very good skiing on well groomed trails topped off with a good amount of artificial snow.

A highlight this year was our first on-the-mountain barbecue lunch in February, complete with a birthday cake dessert to celebrate **Dann Clapp's** sixtieth birthday. This lunch was a super team effort: **Roe** planned, **Diane** shopped, **Tony** and **Charley** carried things in, chef **Dann** grilled, someone brought cole slaw and brownies: thanks, team! It was all super delicious!



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Our bus was full for each trip. As always, we breakfasted on bagels on the way up and then woke up our brains to the challenge of **Miriam McCauley's** trivia game with lots of prizes for the winners. Thanks, **Miriam**.

Bob Davis and his crew unloaded all the skies for us when we reached Elk. Thanks, **Bob** and all.

Getting the tickets went smoothly due to **Roe Crowley's** ongoing coordination with **Bob Deluca** at Elk Group Sales. Thanks, **Roe**.

Diane Garvey, with assistance from **Dann Clapp**, led the January trip and provided helpful oversight and assistance for the February and March trips. Thanks, **Diane** and **Dann**.

Mike Murray and his buddies kept the bus clean and made sure we all remembered all of our belongings. Thanks, **Mike** and **Mike** and **Dan**.

A pizza and beer cocktail party in the main lodge at the end of the day for the March trip marked the end of another season of very fine Elk trips.

Next year, you will want to join us on our day trips on the bus to Elk Mountain! And, if you are skiing on the West Slope (in front of the lodge) watch out for 4 yr. old **Riley Klink**, our youngest skier, who wants to trade in her naps for more time on the mountain with her family, including her proud grandparents, **Roe** and **Bruce Crowley**.





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Big Sky Montana Trip

Kat Blinebury



Oh my, what a great trip we had to Big Sky. I had been to Big Sky once before but it's bigger now which was awesome. We had some groomed trail days and some powder "freshie" days. It was just cold enough to keep the snow in good condition. **Karen Heller**, one of our club members who lives in Montana now always said we should come there in January rather than March and she was right. We went January 17 - 24 and it was perfect.

We stayed at the Summit Hotel at the base of the mountain and had two lifts almost at our door. We had valet ski service, which you can't beat for an amenity. The breakfast buffet had everything you could want and was delicious. The indoor/outdoor hot tub was large and a nice gathering spot at the end of the day for some of us, including "two-can Dann". **Mike Mazza's** new name for **Dann Clapp**.... two cans of beer for each hot tub visit.

We had 28 people go on the trip which was organized by the Eastern PA Ski Council for the 2016 Carnival. Over 300 people were on the trip from 9 clubs. There were some memorable council events for us. First, was winning the scavenger hunt. **Reg Schneider** and I participated with a skier from another club as a team. It was a lot of fun trying to find the 10 items on the list and snapping pictures of them. I guess the timing of the event wasn't so good (2pm on Monday) since we actually were the only group that did the hunt which assured us first place (ha-ha). Second, was finishing the council cup NASTAR race on Tuesday and taking 5th place. **Tony Navarro** put together the team which included **Dann Clapp**, **Charlie App**, **Marilyn Herr**, me, and **Tony**, of course. This was our first time racing for the council cup and due to some computer glitches we only had one shot at it and we came in 5th out of six teams. We had a lot of help from our cheerleaders, **Roe Crowley** and **Greg Blizzard**, and the waving scarf. I also have to mention that **Charlie** received a bronze NASTAR medal for his time in the race. Good job, **Charlie**. I'm sure if he had a second go at it, he would have got the gold.

The third memorable event was the Dinner Gala on Tuesday night. The theme was the 60's ...Think Woodstock and as the announcer from Big Sky said, the Philadelphia Ski Club "nailed it" with the tie dyed shirts we all wore. Thank you to **Roe** for making that happen. I was really pleased that everyone in our group participated and many went all out with their outfits. We had an informal "best dressed" contest for our group and I selected **Blaine Bauer** for the award (with the help of our VP **Greg Blizzard**), which meant free drinks for him for the night. **Blaine** didn't drink too much though since he was more interested in dancing to the 60s music. **Greg** was actually a strong contender in that contest, as well as **Blaine's** wife **Jeanene**, **Roe** and **Sue Byer**.

On Thursday, 21 people from our club took a tour of Yellowstone Park in Snowcats. I expected we would be together on the tour, but instead we were spread out among the 3 or 4 snowcats that went out that day from Buffalo Bus Tours. At the end of the day, it was great that everyone thought that their trip and their guide were the best. With the white backdrop from the snow, it was easy to spot the wildlife. We saw bison, a bald eagle, bobcats, coyotes, elk, trumpeter swans, and blue herons. The waterfalls, hot springs and geysers were interesting to see also. The grand finale was Old Faithful, which didn't let us down, and went off as scheduled. It goes off every 90 minutes, give or take 10 minutes.



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Marion Brown said the Yellowstone trip was a highlight of the week for her and her husband, **Dave**. **Greg Blizzard's** favorite saying during the week was that "we saw the animals and then we ate them" since some of us had dinner at the Buck's T-4 restaurant and choose bison, elk and red reindeer from the menu.

We also had a group of 19 that went on the Lone Mountain Ranch Sleigh Ride Dinner Friday night. After a horse drawn sleigh ride to the North Fork Cabin that is lighted by kerosene lanterns and heated by the 100 years old railroad cook stove, we had an all-you-can eat prime rib dinner. We were also entertained with live cowboy music. We lucked out by having a full moon that night but it was partly cloudy so not quite as bright as it could have been. **Diane Clapp**, who is an avid horseback rider was invited to ride with the driver on her sleigh. She said, "Of course, I loved being up with the driver, but the whole night was so much fun!"

Many of us took the Lone Peak tram during the week to the highest peak at Big Sky with an elevation of 11,166 feet. The day I went up it was so windy at the top that if you dropped anything it would have blown off the mountain. All but two of us took the tram right back down that day. The other two, **Tony Navarro** and **Charlie App** skied off the back of the peak and found the lower lift not running. Lucky for them, they ran into a few people from the ski patrol, who they were able to follow to get back down to the base. I understand it took about two hours and one face plant to get down. That was an adventure for them luckily with a good ending. On the last day of skiing, **Tony** and **Blaine** skied down from the peak after ensuring the lift was open. **Blaine** was happy to do it but disappointed that he hadn't done it sooner, since he would have liked to do it again.

If you ever ski with **Greg Blizzard**, you know that he likes to do the whole mountain by the end of the trip. He doesn't care if the lifts are ancient and move slowly on those outer limits. He wants to experience it all. Well, this trip was the same and on one side of the mountain he and **Mike Mazza** had their first experience at getting chased by a dog while skiing. Luckily, they got away, but I say, beware, next time it could be a bear.

I found during the week that another added bonus to going to Big Sky and being with the Council was that quite a few people got to see family members or friends that they hadn't seen in a while. **Charlie App's** brother and sister-in-law came in from Jackson Hole for a ski day and dinner, **Sue Byer** got to see her niece from Bozeman a few times during the week, **Blaine** and **Jeanene's** son came in from California for Jeanene's birthday and was able to spend the day at Yellowstone with them on our tour. **Mike Mazza** got to ski with a friend he hadn't seen for about 40 years who was on the trip with the South Jersey ski club. Many others ran into friends from other clubs. Last but not least, we all got to see our club member, **Karen Heller**. **John Flanagan** flew out to Karen's in Montana and made the six-hour driving trip to and from Big Sky with her. That's a good friend. We also had three new people on the trip, **Bob Bauerle's** girlfriend **Melinda**, **Dave Bauerle's** girlfriend **Gina**, who was a real sport in taking to the slopes, and **John DeStefano**. We hope they will join us again.

Another memorable thing for **Marion Brown** was her purchase of skis on the trip. I liked that the first thing she did was put her Philadelphia Ski Club stickers on them. Her purchase brought on another challenge though which was... how to get them home when she could not find a ski bag to purchase. Well, through the efforts of **Tony Navarro**, **Diane Clapp** and **Jeff Heberley**, **Marion** was able to get her skis home safely. What **Marion** experienced in that situation I am sure we have all found at one time or another when taking trips with the club and that is that everyone is willing to help one another out and as **Marion** said, "being part of the club really comes



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in handy. So, thanks gang!" I would like to thank everyone for coming on the trip and for participating in the events. It was truly a group trip.



Our Three Lone Mountain Peak Skiers





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Spring Dinner and 80th Anniversary Celebration

Kat Blinebury

We did a lot of celebrating at the spring dinner on May 14th for our 80th Anniversary. The open bar (beer and wine), the DJ/entertainer and the 63 people in attendance made for a really enjoyable event. Between prize announcements and trivia, we danced. The waitress kept moving tables back to give us more room. It was great. We were so busy dancing we forgot to mention the past presidents that were in attendance. By my count there were nine, **Tom Nethery, Jim McHale, Dot James, Paul Waldowski, Dann Clapp, Jim McCauley, John Flanagan, Mike Mazza,** and me. If I missed anyone I apologize.

I want to acknowledge some of the life members and new members that attended. They were: **Marianne Taulane, George and Janet Simon and Barbara Donovan**, who all joined in 1968. Also, there was: **Dot James, Judy Boyd, Ceil Lumsden, John Flanagan, Jim and Bobi McHale,** and **Tom Nethery**, who joined in the 70s. On the opposite side of the spectrum, we had **Courtney and Kaitlin Crowley, Mary and Gilbert Blinebury and Mike and Cory Skroski** at the party with one year in the club, joining in 2015. Just think, they could be life members in the year 2040.

Congratulations to **Sue Byer** and **Jim McHale** for winning the **George Simon** ski trivia contest. The questions were really hard, but they tied with the most questions answered correctly. **George** presented each of them with a crisp \$20 bill. Thanks **George**.

We had many happy winners for the prizes. Just to name a few...**Roe Crowley** and her daughter, **Kaitlin**, and **Pam Blizzard** won the Elk day trip gift certificates. Since **Pam** doesn't ski, I suppose Greg really won. **Mike Skroski**, won the Sports prize which included \$50 in gift cards to Dick's Sporting Goods, among other items. **Bob VanZant** won a nice Game Basket which included Pass-the-Pigs, which we played in Stowe this year, and other games and snacks. The grand prize was a basket of cheer which **Miriam McCauley** won. **Miriam** donated some of the items in the basket back to the club for future prizes. Thanks **Miriam** (and **Jim**).

Thanks to those that donated prizes, **Greg** for the games, **Roe** for the chocolate trays and special thanks to **Maryann Haverland** for the \$50 and \$25 gift cards to Amazon. Also, **Roe** provided a beautiful and delicious vegetable tray and **Mike Mazza** a cheese tray for our appetizers.

Finally, thanks to everyone for coming to the dinner, for being members, and for participating in the club trips. We had such a successful season, the club was able to provide funds from the Treasury towards the party. It was a nice event. Hopefully, we'll be able to do it again for the 90th anniversary in 2021.

So, display the car stickers given out at the dinner and spread the word about this great organization. Also, send your children, grandchildren, other relatives, neighbors, and friends on the trips and to our meetings, so we can keep it going.



For members that were not at the anniversary party, if you would like a ski car sticker, send an email to philaskiclub@gmail.com and Kat will mail one to you.



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Spring Dinner and 80th Anniversary Celebration Photos



Upcoming Events

September 13, 2016 - Burholme Park Picnic at 6:00 PM (no reservation needed).

September 25- 27, 2016 - Pocono Mountain Area Golf Outing.

Contact Ron Durr at Telephone: 215/643-6990;

E-mail: ronlori3@verizon.net

Side Tracks

We were very happy to be back on “track” with the Ski Club this winter at Stowe and the Elk Trips. Stowe was an adventure (as always!) with **Karen** losing her credit card and driver’s license. Glad to report that both were turned in and returned to us by the fine staff at Stowe Mountain. While the weather wasn’t as cooperative as we would have liked, we enjoyed hanging out with you at the lodge and the “farm house”. The Elk trips were fantastic and the weather couldn’t have been better. I had fun hosting the Trivia Contest on the bus in March. We are looking forward to next season and making more great memories with all of you.



Until then, **Karen** and I wish you all a happy and healthy off-season. Be well. ~*Steve DiMeglio*

Corresponding Secretary
9501 Torresdale Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19114



Philadelphia Ski Club

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A LOOK BACK AT A GREAT 2015-2016 SEASON!



INSIDE: Details on our season!
